



Press Release

Launch of Renaissance Publishing's Annual Writing Contest 2008

Renaissance Publishing is proud to announce that the 2nd edition of its annual writing contest is here again. In 2007, the inaugural contest called for entries from full-time students in Singapore. They were given the theme of love and told to send in their most romantic work possible. 253 entries from students in 41 different schools were received, and the quality of the entries far exceeded the organiser's expectations. \$1700 in cash was given out to the top 3 entries and 38 outstanding entries were published in a compilation book titled "Romance Volume 1". The book launch and prize presentation were conducted on Valentines' Day 2008 with much fanfare and a big crowd at Borders Wheelock Place.

This year, on top of the cash prizes – 1st \$1000, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$200 – 3 merit awards of \$100 Borders Vouchers each are also being given away, proudly sponsored by Borders, the official bookstore for the contest.

"This competition showcases the literary talent of Singaporeans and Borders is proud to support the local writing scene. The first edition of the compilation book 'Romance Volume 1' was very well received and we believe that the theme of love and romance will continue to resonate with Borders customers," says Ricardo Rodrigues, Regional Manager of Borders Singapore.

On top of the increase in prizes, Renaissance is also changing the rules of the contest to allow anyone age 25 and below to take part, but foreigners must be currently residing in Singapore. This year's contest calls for contestants to write short stories based on the theme of love and romance. The top entries will be published in the 2nd volume of the "Romance" series.

"Renaissance's vision and goal is to produce an international bestseller from Singapore. For that purpose our annual writing contest differs from other literary contests in that we publish the best entries for sale commercially. Because of that, we chose a universal theme of love and romance which is easily accessible to both writers as well as readers. Creating a book from the contest entries for sales in bookstores also gives our young talents a chance to be exposed and build up their portfolios, instead of fading away after the contest is over," says Lance Ng, Publisher of Renaissance.

"Unlike other contests, we are also committed to developing the talents uncovered by keeping them under our wings in our in-house writers' group, and giving them commercial writing projects and guidance to further develop their writing skills. By carving a niche in the market through the "Romance" series, we hope to create a product that can break into the international market and the commercial sustainability needed to invest and develop writing as a career for local talents."



National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS) is again collaborating with Renaissance Publishing as the official partner, with National Arts Council (NAC) and National Library Board (NLB) coming on board this year to officially support the contest. Mr Khor Kok Wah, Deputy CEO, NAC and Director for Literary Arts says, "NAC applauds Renaissance Publishing's initiative to discover and nurture our next generation of writers through this contest. Such platforms will certainly facilitate the development and growth of our literary landscape."

Contestants must submit their entries by 30th Aug 2008. The judging panel will comprise of representatives from the various organizations involved. Aspiring writers can visit www.renaissance.sg for more details on taking part.

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About Renaissance Publishing

Started in July 2007, Renaissance Publishing is an independent publisher dedicated to the vision of creating the first international bestseller from Singapore. It currently has 4 titles published till date and is the creator of the Renaissance Publishing's Annual Writing Contest.

www.renaissance.sg